

Joint meeting between representatives of the Maine Volunteer Foundation and Maine Commission for Community Service
May 17, 2019

Present: (MCCS) Libby Hite, John Portela, Ed Barrett; and (MVF) Bill Birney, Lisa Laflin, and Ron Holmes.

First item of discussion was the Maine Service Fellows. Foundation representatives shared the responses they were getting when talking to potential funders. The contacts so far were with groups that are problem focused and want to know if the Service Fellows will be working on the problem to which they are dedicating their resources. The Commission task force working on the Service Fellows had the advantage of hearing the update last week from Orion Breen who is a member. That gave them time to discuss the challenge. The Commission understands that, to get a pilot stood up so others can see how it works, there may need to be a top down approach rather than providing support to community-driven solutions. The task force recommended the Commission focus on aging-in-place as the "problem" communities could tackle with the aid of a Service Fellow. The target communities are still rural areas that are under-resourced. The hope is that this narrowing and temporary shift to a top-down model will give funders greater comfort. The goal is to have a pilot that demonstrates the impact and value of supporting service as a tool for communities to use.

The task force will edit the description to reflect this change. The foundation members felt this would give them a better opportunity with funders.

Second item of discussion was the anniversary gala which, hopefully, will net some funds. Commissioners agreed any funds left after expenses should be used by the foundation to support its work. Currently the board members are performing all the tasks which is slowing the pace. If they could get to a point where it is possible to contract with someone to help move things along faster, it would help both the Foundation and the Commission goals.